(b) the number of proposals received the approval of the Central Government ;

(c) whether the Government of Tripura has sent any proposal for strengthening the protection of Assam-Agartala Road (N.H. 44); and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure proper protection of this life line of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Government of Tripura has submitted several proposals which include request for sanction of additional funds under the Central Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces, allocation of additional arms and ammunition, reimubursement of Security-related expenditure, strengthening of Mobile Task Force and allotment of bullet-proof vehicles.

(b) So far two proposals regarding additional funds under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces and allocation of arms and ammunition have been approved by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Yes. Sir. 36 Gypsies, arms and ammunition worth Rs. 1.23 crores were released in kind to the Government of Tripura for protection of National Highway-44. Additional funds amounting to Rs. 100 lakhs was sanctioned during 1996-97 specifically for procurement of radio communication equipment for use by Tripura Police.

World bank IBRD/IDA Assistance for Agriculture Sector

2015. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the world bank has announced a package programme to the State of Andhra Pradesh for agriculture sector ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether a package of 325 million dollars loan will be provided by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and $150 Million will be provided by the IDA;

(d) if so, the details of main projects that will be undertaken from this loan;

(e) the extent to which the agricultural productivity will be improved;

(f) whether the projects consolidate the Andhra Pradesh efforts to better utilise the scarce water resources available to its drought prones and economically less developed inland regions;

(g) if so, whether any concrete programme in this regard has been worked out; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The World Bank has announced a package programme of $325 million to the State of Andhra Pradesh for irrigation in connection with AP-III Irrigation Project, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources.

(c) and (d) Under the Agreement dated 3.6.97 the World Bank has agreed to provide an assistance of US $325 million (IDA Credit US $ 150 Million and IBRD Loan US $175 million) for Andhra Pradesh III Irrigation Project comprising of Sriramasgar and Srisailam right Branch Canal sub-projects which are expected to be completed by 31.1.2003. The project effectiveness date is 3.7.1997. The component wise utilisation of above assistance will be 80% for irrigation works, 2.5% for agricuture support services, 5% for resettlement and rehabilitation programme, 7.5% for environmental management plan and 5% for Dam Safety Assurance Works.

(e) and (f) Assistance to GOAP for rehabilitation and completion of Sriramasagar Project (SRSP) 253,000 ha. command area and completion of the 65,000 ha. Srisailam Right Branch Canal (SRBC) project begun under the AP II project would add 153,000 ha. to the surface irrigation commands in AP. The location of the command area of the SRBC is the Rayalaseema Region whereas the location for the SRSP, it is the Telenzana Region. The agricultural objective of these works is to promote the production of high value cash crops in upland irrigation schemes by improved water delivery, applied farming systems research, irrigation agronomy extension and farmer training. These inputs would result in significant incremental agricultural production.

(g) and (h) In respect of Sriramasagar Project and Srisailam Right Branch Canal of Andhra Pradesh III, year wise targets have been fixed for the implementation of project to be completed by 31.7.2003.

[Translation]

Industry Status to Sheep Shearing

2016. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sheep shearing has been given the status of industry ;

(b) if so, whether the Government provide assistance for this purpose ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) No, Sir, it has not been given the status of industry under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

(b) and (c) In view of 'a' above does not arise.

Implementation of Sixth Schedule in Tribal Dominated Areas

2017. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to implement the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in the areas adjacent to the tribal dominated areas ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any State Government has sent any such proposal for the implementation of Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of the answer (a) above.

[English]

Workings of Consumer Courts

2018. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the mode of functioning of consumer fora ;

(b) whether impediments/difficulties have broadly been indentified in the working of these courts ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or being taken to remedy the difficulties notified in the functioning of these courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The Consumer Courts set-up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are functioning as per the procedure laid down in the said Act.

(b) and (c) the inadequate infrastructure, frequent adjournments, non-filling up of posts of the Presidents/ Members in the Consumer Courts are some of the obstacles faced by the Consumer Courts. Steps taken by the Central Government to remove the obstacles are as follows :

(i) To strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer Courts, Central Government has provided one-time grant of Rs. 54.62 crores to the States/UTs during 1995-97.

(ii) Central government and the National Commission are regularly monitoring the working of the Consumer Courts.

(iii) State/UT Governments have been requested to fill up the vacancies of Mimbers/Presidents of various Consumer Courts on priority basis.

(iv) Central Government has written to the State Governments to hold periodical meeting a with the Presidents of the Consumer Courts to monitor and expedite the disposal of the cases.

(v) Central Government conducts training courses for the non-judicial members of the Consumer Courts to acquaint themselves with the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act and Rules and other relevant legislations.

Lifting Ban on West Bengal Potato

2019. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on growing potatoes in the West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ;

(c) whether producers of this State were unable to sold their produce to other States due to this ban;

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to lift the ban keeping in view to protect the interest of growers;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) the time by which this ban is likely to be lifted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Sir, Potato Wart disease was reported in Darjeeling area of West Bengal during 1953. Since this was an exotic disease, domestic Plant Quarantine measures were adopted imposing restriction on the movement of potato grown in the State of West Bengal to control/contain the disease.

(d) to (f) Based on the outcome of a recent survey conducted during 1995, it has been decided in principle to restrict the ban on movement of Potatoes from Bijanbari, Mirik, Kurseong, Takdah, kalimpong, Alagara and Sukhporia blocks in Darjeeling District to other parts of West Bengal and territory of India. Notification in this regard has been approved for publication in the Gazette.